

**MARIN COUNTY**

**Site name:** Tomales Bay State Marine Park

**Year established:** 1973

**Approximate Area:** 0.58 nm<sup>2</sup>      **Approximate Shoreline length:** 9.08 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** not available

**Habitat types:** Intertidal marsh and estuarine

**Surrounding habitat types:** estuarine

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational hook and line take of species other than marine aquatic plants. Only lightweight, hand-carried boats may be launched or operated within the Park.

**Primary objectives:** This area was originally designated as an ecological reserve. Fish and Game Code Section 1580 (ecological reserves) states that "the policy of the state is to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types, both terrestrial and non-marine aquatic, or large heterogeneous natural gene pools for the future use of mankind through the establishment of ecological reserves." Although the language does not specifically refer to ecological reserves in marine areas, the Fish and Game Commission has extended this policy to those areas.

**Existing enforcement:** Tomales Bay State Marine Park is patrolled regularly by the Department of Fish and Game.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** None found.

**Basic Evaluation:** Insufficient information for evaluation at this time.

**Site name:** Point Reyes Headlands State Marine Conservation Area

**Year established:** 1972

**Approximate Area:** 0.60 nm<sup>2</sup> **Approximate Shoreline length:** 3.5 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** 0 to 85

**Habitat types:** Rocky intertidal and subtidal mixed with sandy bottom.

**Surrounding habitat types:** Mixture of sand and hard bottom offshore.

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the commercial take of finfish and algae other than giant kelp and bull kelp.

**Primary objectives:** Protection of invertebrates.

**Existing enforcement:** Enforcement has been difficult due to the lack of personnel active in the area, as well as the difficulty in distinguishing recreational from commercial fishing from shore.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** Baseline data for individual species varies from data collected in 1931 (algae) to 1980 (salmonids). No baseline data for finfish. There have been no specific research projects related to its status as an MPA.

**Basic Evaluation:** There are no current studies that speak to the efficacy of this site as an MPA; the existing regulations provide limited protection for invertebrates in the nearshore (primary objective).

**Published references related to use of this MPA as a research tool:** 13, 213

**Site name:** Estero de Limantour State Marine Conservation Area

**Year established:** 1971

**Approximate Area:** 0.64 nm<sup>2</sup> **Approximate Shoreline length:** 10.15 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** not available

**Habitat types:** Estuarine and marsh

**Surrounding habitat types:** Intertidal sandy bottom with rocky outcroppings interspersed.

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the commercial take of finfish and algae other than giant kelp and bull kelp.

**Primary objectives:** To protect estuarine habitat.

**Existing enforcement:** Enforcement at this site has been limited.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** While no baseline studies have been conducted in this area, monitoring of the area is conducted regularly as part of the National Seashore.

**Basic Evaluation:** There are no studies reporting the efficacy of this area as an MPA. Although this MPA technically permits some commercial take, it functions as a defacto fully protected area from consumptive use.

**Site name:** Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area

**Year established:** 1971

**Approximate Area:** 0.50 nm<sup>2</sup> **Approximate Shoreline length:** 3.8 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** 0 to 13

**Habitat types:** Monterey shale, rocky intertidal and subtidal habitat.

**Surrounding habitat types:** Rocky intertidal and subtidal habitat interspersed with sand.

**Summary of existing regulations:**

Only the following species may be taken recreationally: Red abalone, Dungeness crab, rock crabs, rockfish (family Scorpaenidae), lingcod, cabezon, surfperch (family Embiotocidae), halibut, flounder, sole, turbot, salmon, kelp greenling, striped bass, steelhead, monkeyface-eel, wolf-eel, smelt, and silversides.

Commercial take of species other than giant kelp and bull kelp is allowed.

**Primary objectives:** Protect communities of a Monterey shale outcrop, especially the intertidal biota.

**Existing enforcement:** Enforcement is not effective due to lack of personnel in the area.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** Dr. Gordon Chan of the College of Marin conducted several long-term categorical studies as well as a study of user effects on the invertebrate and algae population prior to the MPA designation. Floral and faunal surveys were done by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in 1996.

**Basic Evaluation:** The primary objective in establishing this area was to provide protection for invertebrate species while allowing hook-and-line fishing from shore. Due to local conservation education efforts, this MPA fulfills its initial objective to prohibit recreational take of invertebrate species except red abalone. Use of the area has evolved since the MPA designation and commercial harvest occurs on the reef and near the reef, possibly affecting the populations the original designation was designed to protect.

**Published references related to effectiveness of this MPA:** 27

**Published references related to use of this MPA as a research tool:** 26

**Unpublished references related to use of this MPA as a research tool:** 8

**Site name:** Corte Madera Marsh State Marine Park

**Year established:** 1976

**Approximate Area:** 0.69 nm<sup>2</sup>      **Approximate Shoreline length:** 2.03 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** 0 to 15

**Habitat types:** Intertidal marsh and estuarine

**Surrounding habitat types:** Estuarine

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational hook and line take of species other than marine aquatic plants from shore only. Only lightweight, hand-carried boats may be launched or operated within the park. Swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited within the park.

**Primary objectives:** This area was originally designated as an ecological reserve. Fish and Game Code Section 1580 (ecological reserves) states that "the policy of the state is to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types, both terrestrial and nonmarine aquatic, or large heterogeneous natural gene pools for the future use of mankind through the establishment of ecological reserves." Although the language does not specifically refer to ecological reserves in marine areas, the Fish and Game Commission has extended this policy to those areas.

**Existing enforcement:** Corte Madera Marsh is patrolled regularly by the Department of Fish and Game.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** None found.

**Basic Evaluation:** Insufficient information for evaluation at this time.

**Site name:** Marin Islands State Marine Park

**Year established:** 1993

**Approximate Area:** 0.42 nm<sup>2</sup>      **Approximate Shoreline length:** 1.93 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** 0 to 15

**Habitat types:** rocky intertidal

**Surrounding habitat types:** estuarine

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational hook and line take of species other than marine aquatic plants from shore only. Boating, swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited within the park.

**Primary objectives:** This area was originally designated as an ecological reserve. Fish and Game Code Section 1580 (ecological reserves) states that "the policy of the state is to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types, both terrestrial and nonmarine aquatic, or large heterogeneous natural gene pools for the future use of mankind through the establishment of ecological reserves." Although the language does not specifically refer to ecological reserves in marine areas, the Fish and Game Commission has extended this policy to those areas.

**Existing enforcement:** Marin Islands is patrolled regularly by the Department of Fish and Game.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** None found.

**Basic Evaluation:** Insufficient information for evaluation at this time.